

Strongly urges U.S. Department of Commerce to reject measures that provide unfair advantages to imported silicon metal

Niagara Falls, NY -Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today issued a letter strongly urging the United States Department of Commerce to reject requests to unfairly disadvantage domestic manufacturers by eliminating the duties on imported silicon metal. Slaughter, the author of the Reciprocal Market Access Act, is an outspoken supporter of aggressive trade policies that support domestic manufacturing.

"We have a responsibility to protect and support American businesses and the hardworking men and women that they employ, especially as we look to rebuild America's manufacturing sector," said Slaughter. "I urge the Department of Commerce and the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, in the strongest possible terms, to reject efforts to bypass American manufacturers like Globe Metallurgical."

Globe Metallurgical Inc., the largest U.S. silicon metal producer, has a manufacturing plant in Niagara Falls and provides good jobs for the hardworking men and women of Western New York. Globe, along with other domestic silicon metal producers, would be negatively impacted by the removal of duties on foreign silicon imports. Slaughter's letter specifically outlines the impact of duty-free access to imported silicon metal, stating that: "Continuing to approve more subzones providing access to imported silicon metal without paying customs duties would threaten the viability of domestic manufacturing operations, including Globe's Niagara Falls plant, and would have a serious negative impact on the Western New York region and local jobs....That plant, located in Niagara Falls, is a vital source of good jobs for skilled local workers. Globe has invested \$40 million to bring the plant back on line and upgrade it to a world-class facility."

"Congresswoman Slaughter has been a tenacious supporter of Globe's employees in Western New York," said Paul Lojek, Niagara Plant Manager. "We have a strong commitment to the region and are dedicated to being an important player in the growth and revitalization of the local economy. Louise knows that given a fair playing field, we are ready to compete with anyone and win. We are excited about our ability to provide good-paying, skilled jobs to the hardworking men and women of Niagara Falls and look forward to working with the Congresswoman as we move forward."

Applications which seek to eliminate the duties on silicon metal imports are currently under review at the Foreign Trade Zone Board. Foreign Trade Zones are designed to support U.S. businesses in competition with foreign competitors. "The Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program is a valuable economic development tool," Slaughter's letter continues. "The Board should not allow a series of applicants to use it to get rid of duties on a particular product, to the detriment of the domestic industry and workers producing that product. The financial benefit realized by eliminating these duties is very small compared to the detrimental impact on domestic suppliers and workers of losing sales to imports."

[Slaughter has been a long-time leader fighting to protect American jobs and promote fair trade. For more on Slaughter's work, click here](#) .